

## A HOLIDAY VOLUME.

**LONGFELLOW ILLUSTRATED.**  
THE COURTSHP OF MILES STANDISH. By Henry W. Longfellow. Illustrated. \$4. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co., 1888.

In the course of the thirty years which have passed since the first publication of "The Courtship of Miles Standish," the pictorial possibilities of the poem have been explored until there can be little left to discover or to invent. Within two months after the first appearance of "Miles Standish" in 1858, Longfellow noted in his diary the receipt of "a beautiful illustration" by Mr. Ehninger, showing the bridal procession going through the Plymouth woods, "a subject which within a year or two has been repeated in oil on a large scale for one of our Academy exhibitions, and popularized in a huge etching. Mr. Ehninger was followed in point of time by Mr. Boughton and, without specifying more members of the army of painters and draughtsmen, Mr. Boughton has been followed by Mr. C. Y. Turner, who appears to have begun as it were a cycle of illustrative paintings adapted to translation into black and white. So far as the basis of illustration in this poem is concerned, there is really little chance for variation. There are certain familiar types of personages, of landscape and of shore which must be reckoned upon as constant factors. John Alden will always be beardless, slender, almost effeminate, and the doughty Captain is as certain to be hirsute of countenance, broad-shouldered and short of stature. The resources of costume offer the artist little relief, for in this case the costuming admits of no essential variation from certain familiar forms. And yet we think that most of us would confess to a persistent interest in Puritan historical genre, if we may so classify the work founded upon Longfellow and Hawthorne, or directly inspired by the story of the Plymouth colony.

Among the illustrations of the well-made volume before us, Mr. F. T. Merrill comes easily first in the consequence and interest of his work. Mr. Merrill has made six large drawings, apparently in gouache, which have been reproduced by a photogravure process, printed with tinted inks, and published as full page plates. The quality of Mr. Merrill's work entitles him to an honorable place among our illustrative draughtsmen of the figure, even though we may find nothing in his work which can be called a masterly exhibition of the power of a line, of truth of action, of alert movement, or of the presentation of thoroughly individual character. But masterly figure drawing is likely to be rare enough in this country for some time to come, and meanwhile good work is not to be undervalued. Mr. Merrill's "Priscilla" is a study from a pretty model deserving of popular acceptance, and his illustration of the departure of Miles Standish's expedition is presented in an effective fashion. There are many minor illustrations, engravings, and prints reproducing drawings by Messrs. Boughton, Reinhardt, Shapleigh and others which in most cases will certainly not be mistaken for novel essays in illustrative art. It is interesting to note a drawing by Mr. Justin Winsor on page 72. Turning from the abundant illustrations, half titles and tail pieces to the purely mechanical features of the book, there is little which fails to enlist commendation. The photographic process, presumably photogravure, employed to reproduce Mr. Merrill's drawings has done its work well, too well indeed, as regards the familiar preservation of "painty" effects in the original. Equally familiar is the seemingly inevitable loss in the rendering of half tints, the accentuations of whites and blacks, and certain lapses in texture and definition. But the results, as we have said, are generally satisfactory, and the plates are improved as regards convenient presentation by their mounting on lined hinges. The paper used is of the heaviest and choicest, and there has been no stinting of margins. The cover, which bears a suggestion of clasp and hinges, is uncommonly sober for holiday time, but we think a day has come when sobriety will be appreciated.

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